

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 1) A catheter water barrier comprising a section of waterproof material having two channels along opposing edges and a relatively long tie down strip which is disposed through said two channels.
 - 2) The catheter water barrier of claim 1 wherein said section of waterproof material is generally rectangular in shape.
 - 3) The catheter water barrier of claim 1 wherein said catheter water barrier further comprises a pair of flaps having longitudinal axes, said flaps being coupled to said section of waterproof material to provide a pouch portion.
 - 4) The catheter water barrier of claim 3 wherein said longitudinal axes of said pair of flaps are substantially perpendicular to said channels.
 - 5) The catheter water barrier of claim 3 wherein said longitudinal axes of said pair of flaps are substantially parallel to said channels.
 - 6) The catheter water barrier of claim 1 wherein said section of waterproof material is formed from a polymer material.
 - 20 7) The catheter water barrier of claim 1 wherein said tie down strip is formed from a nylon material.
 - 8) A catheter water barrier comprising a generally rectangular waterproof polymer barrier portion having two channels and a

relatively long nylon tie strip which is disposed through said two channels.

9) The catheter water barrier of claim 8 wherein said two channels are disposed along opposing edges of said barrier portion.

10) The catheter water barrier of claim 8 wherein said two channels form an "X"-shaped pattern across said barrier portion.

11) The catheter water barrier of claim 10 wherein said two channels intersect at the approximate center of said barrier portion.

12) A method for using a catheter water barrier on a user having a chest catheter is provided, said method comprises the steps of:

providing a catheter water barrier having a barrier portion, at least two channels, and a relatively long tie down strip;

forming a loop by inserting said tie down strip through said at least two channels;

placing the head of said user through said loop;

disposing said barrier portion over said chest catheter; and

tying the ends of said tie down strip together, thereby

causing said tie down strip to hold said barrier portion to said user.

13) The method of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

forming a pair of flaps upon said barrier portion to form a pouch portion; and

placing said chest catheter within said pouch portion.

14) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of tying the ends of said tie down strip together, thereby causing said tie down strip to hold said barrier portion to said user further comprises the step of wrapping said ends of said tie down strip around the back of said user.

15) The method of claim 12 wherein said at least two channels of said barrier portion are formed in a "X"-shaped pattern across said barrier portion and wherein said step of disposing said barrier portion over said chest catheter further comprises the step of placing the intersection of said "X"-shaped pattern above said chest catheter.

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